

VOCAL STUDIES PROFESSOR

Vocal & Opera Faculty

Grade 8, Hourly-paid, Permanent contract

Job reference number: 301-26

Applicant Information Pack

Closing date

9am Tuesday 31 March 2026

Late or incomplete applications will not
be submitted to the Shortlisting Panel

Interview date

Monday 20 & Tuesday 21 April 2026 (am)

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Job Description

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| Job title | Vocal Studies professor |
| Department | Vocal and Opera Faculty |
| Grade | 8 |
| Hours of work | Hourly paid |
| Contract type | Permanent |
| Responsible to | Head of Vocal and Opera Faculty |
| Responsible for | No direct reports |
| Liaises with | Deputy Head of Vocal and Opera, Director of Opera, Heads of Faculty, faculty colleagues, students |
| Job overview | The role of a Vocal professor is to enable RCM singers to reach their full potential, helping them expand both their vocal and artistic possibilities during the course of their studies. |

Key Responsibilities

These include:

- Teaching Vocal Studies at the highest level to individuals and on occasion, groups if requested.
- Inspiring young singers through their love of music and a personal commitment to lifelong learning.
- Enabling young singers bridge the gap between aspiration and achievement through a supportive appraisal of current strengths and areas needing development.
- Contributing to the work of the Vocal and Opera Faculty through regular attendance at Faculty meetings and RCM events.
- Participating in College assessments including recital, concert and operatic panels when requested.
- Auditioning candidates for entry to one of the RCM's BMus, Postgraduate and Artist Diploma courses when requested.
- Attracting the most talented national and international vocal students to study at the RCM.
- Recommending appropriate repertoire best suited to public/appraised performances and long-term vocal development.
- Promoting a culture of self-reliance based on the steady acquisition of knowledge and skills.
- Adopting a pastoral approach to students, liaising whenever necessary with the Head and Deputy Head of the Vocal and Opera Faculty or additional RCM departments regarding the health and development of the singers in their charge
- For their teaching to reflect current physiological understanding and to be aware of pedagogical developments.
- Encouraging professional levels of commitment and behaviour in students to prepare them for the rigours of the music profession.
- Adhering to the RCM's Code of Teaching Practice and contributing positively to the development and reputation of the RCM as a world-renowned centre of musical excellence.

Special Factors

- Available to deliver 1:1 teaching provision regularly throughout the RCM academic year, liaising actively with the Head of Faculty when outside performing or teaching commitments necessitate reasonable periods of absence.

Person Specification

Applicants should demonstrate in their supporting statement how their qualifications, experience, skills and training fit each of the criteria below.

| Criteria | Description | Essential / Desirable | How Criteria Are Tested |
|---|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Qualifications | A relevant Higher Education qualification in Vocal Studies, music performance or equivalent. | Desirable | AF |
| | Academic teaching qualification such as the Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education or Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (HEA) | Desirable | AF |
| | A SEDA-accredited teaching qualification or equivalent. | Desirable | AF |
| Experience, Skills & Knowledge | Experience of teaching gifted and talented students at undergraduate and postgraduate level, preferably gained within a Conservatoire environment. | Essential | AF, INT, ST |
| | An outstanding performing career as a soloist. | Desirable | AF |
| | An established performer or artist with a substantial or developing track record, internationally recognised as a world-leading or potentially work-leading talent | Desirable | AF |
| | Experience participating in professional artistic programs of work internationally * | Desirable | AF |
| | Experience of – or an interest in - dealing with optimising performance preparation and managing performance anxiety. | Desirable | AF, INT, ST |
| | Experience of conducting research and publishing findings in professional journals, books and electronic media. | Desirable | AF |
| | The ability to teach, coach, mentor and improve skills in the context of individual and where requested, group lessons. | Essential | AF, INT, ST |
| | Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. | Essential | AF, INT, ST |
| | The ability to carry out and mark assessments at all levels. | Desirable | AF |
| | Global perspective and good international contacts. | Essential | AF, INT |
| | An understanding of the demands of the music profession. | Essential | AF, INT |
| | An understanding of or interest in student wellbeing and learning support needs in a performing arts environment | Desirable | AF, INT, ST |
| Personal Attributes | Empathy | Essential | AF, INT, ST |
| | Patience | Essential | AF, INT, ST |
| | Team player | Essential | AF, INT |

AF = Application Form INT = Interview ST = Selection Test

The duties and responsibilities assigned to the post may be amended by the Head of Vocal and Opera Faculty within the scope and level of the post.

Terms & Conditions

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Availability | The post is available from September 2026 |
| Contract type | Permanent |
| Hours of work | This role is offered on a part time, hourly-paid basis. |
| Hourly rate | RCM Pay Scale Grade 8, hourly rate £59.84 |
| Visas/ Right to Work in the UK | <p>If you have time limited permission to work in the UK you must provide full details on your Application for Employment form.</p> <p>If you do not have permission to work in the UK but would be eligible to apply for a Visa <u>you must state the applicable route on your Application for Employment form</u>. We suggest you use the online tool provided by the government to explore your eligibility and options relating to Visas. Visa Checking Tool</p> <p>Some applicants including prospective professors, may wish to explore the Global Talent Visa route. Further information about endorsement for this visa can be found on the Arts Council website.</p> <p>This is not a role for which the RCM will act as a sponsor for the Skilled Worker route.</p> |
| Immigration Advisors | The HR department cannot act as immigration advisors however if you are an international student studying in the UK you can seek guidance from the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) . Alternatively the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) which regulates immigration advisers maintains a list of approved Immigration Advisors . |
| DBS check | Not applicable for this post. |
| Probation | The post has a twelve month probationary period. |
| Notice period | The appointment will be subject to termination by not less than one clear term's notice. Notice during probation will be one month's notice by either party. |
| Pension | The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is available for all academic staff. Under the rules of the TPS, professorial employment is automatically pensionable unless a professor elects to opt out of the scheme. Full details of the scheme are available from the Teachers' Pensions website: www.teacherspensions.co.uk . Arrangements exist for members to make additional voluntary contributions (AVCs). |

How to Apply

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|--------------|---------------------------|
| Closing date | 9am Tuesday 31 March 2026 |
|--------------|---------------------------|

Applications received after the stated closing date will not be considered.

Interview date Monday 20 & Tuesday 21 April (am) 2026

Shortlisted candidates will be notified in due course.

We communicate interview dates in advance to ensure candidates have adequate notice to make arrangements. Regrettably we are unlikely to be able to accommodate alternative interview dates.

To apply

To apply, please submit the following documents available on the RCM jobs page

- Application Form
- Equal Opportunities Form

The above documents should be sent to recruitment@rcm.ac.uk by the stated closing date.

We encourage applications by email however if you wish to post your application you must ensure this reaches us by the closing date.

Late Application Forms, incomplete Application Forms, Application Forms submitted in a format other than Word or PDF and CVs without an Application Form will not be accepted.

Alternative formats

If you need to receive our recruitment documentation in a different format, such as large print or are not able to submit an application electronically, then please contact us to discuss your requirements.

Interview process

Interviews will take the form of a panel interview, normally comprised of three staff members however more senior positions may have larger panels. Details of the interview panel will ordinarily be included in the interview invitation. We will be happy to make any reasonable accommodations as part of this process.

As part of the interview format you may be invited to take a brief tour of our facilities, details will be included in your interview invitation and we will be happy to accommodate accessibility requirements.

A test or presentation may form part of the interview process and details will be provided in the interview invitation. We will be happy to make any reasonable accommodations as part of this process.

Staff Benefits

Travel

Interest free season ticket loans are available to cover the cost of a 12 month season ticket between a member of staff's residence and the RCM. The loan will be repayable by deduction from salary over a period of 12 months or on leaving the employment of the RCM, if earlier.

We also offer a tax-free bicycle loan under a similar repayment scheme.

Events

There is a range of concerts taking place at the RCM throughout the weeks, staff are entitled to one free ticket per charged concert (excluding Opera and non-RCM promotions), and unlimited tickets for non-charged concerts.

Eye tests & hearing tests

The RCM will cover the cost of an annual standard eyesight test (normally up to £25) and contribute £50 towards the cost of glasses, provided that they are for use with VDUs. We will also cover the cost of hearing tests.

Employee Assistance Programme

All RCM staff can get free and confidential advice from Confidential Care (CiC). The service is open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, by telephone or via the web.

Professional Development

The RCM is committed to the support of training and professional development for all members of staff and a range of opportunities are available.

About Us

The College

Opened in 1883 by the then Prince of Wales, the Royal College of Music (RCM) is a world-leading music conservatoire with a prestigious history and contemporary outlook. The RCM is a vibrant community of talented and open-minded musicians, with over 900 students from more than 60 countries studying at undergraduate, masters or doctoral level in the Senior College throughout the week and 300 students on a Saturday in the Junior Department. Former students of the RCM hold key roles in music and the arts in all parts of the world - as performers, teachers, composers, conductors and animateurs. The RCM was ranked as the global top institution for both Music and Performing Arts in the 2025 QS World University Rankings by Subject. The College has held this world-leading place in Performing Arts for four successive years, while Music is a new subject introduced to the rankings in 2024.

Staff

The RCM has over 250 members of professorial (teaching) staff and over 100 teachers in the Junior Department - the majority of whom are busy professionals with worldwide reputations, who include teaching among the various musical activities that they regularly undertake. Their work, and the work of the College as a whole, is supported by a team of over one hundred administrative staff.

Location

The RCM benefits from its particular location in South Kensington - one of the most attractive and interesting parts of central London. The area is well-served by public transport: South Kensington tube station is within ten minutes' walk; several bus routes pass the Royal Albert Hall. Kensington Gardens and the renowned museums of Exhibition Road, the Natural History Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Science Museum, are only a short walk away; Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine is next door; the Royal College of Art and the Royal Albert Hall are just across the road. The area, known originally as Albertopolis, emerged as a location for national institutions in the arts and sciences after the Great Exhibition of 1851 largely because of the enthusiasm of Prince Albert. Relationships with neighbouring institutions are friendly and supportive.

Vocal & Opera Faculty

We welcome each student into our innovative, nurturing and collaborative faculty, with proven international experience in performance and education, and an exceptional record. Our aim is to help each student thrive and reach their full musical and artistic potential. One-to-one lessons are at the very heart of every RCM student's learning experience.

The Vocal & Opera Faculty is proud to have an impressive team of internationally acclaimed vocal professors, repertoire and operatic coaches. Our world-class professors offer students not only first-rate teaching, but also mentorship and networking opportunities. Our close links with the wider music industry provides continued support to further develop our students' career options.

The Royal College of Music is an Equal Opportunities employer.

Audrey Hyland
Head of Vocal & Opera
March 2026

